Major steps taken by Government for improving the TPDS are these:

(i) A 9-point action plan has been under implementation by State/UT Governments. This has resulted in improvemnt in its functioning in terms of detection and elimination of bogus/fake ration cards, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), setting up Vigilance Committee, door delivery of foodgrains, etc.

(ii) Concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up in 26 States and UTs through NCAER and IIPA, New Delhi.

(iii) A revised Citizens' Charter has been issued in July, 2007 for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitaing use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

(iv) To ensure that TPDS foodgrains reach the targeted families and to minimize scope for their diversion, APL allocations have been rationalized.

(v) Training Programmes for TPDS functionaries and Awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up.

(vi) Computerization of TPDS has been initiated.

(vii) Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System is being piloted.

(viii) Revised policy on distribution of wheat flour has been issued.

Ban on export of oilseeds and edible oils

841. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to recommend ban of export of oilseeds and edible oil to contain domestic prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have not taken any decision to ban export of oilseeds and edible oils as on date.

Quality of imported wheat

†842. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of imported wheat is being questioned;

(b) whether it is costly, too; and

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has complained against biased treatment in terms of foodgrain distributions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, a complaint

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.